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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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In re application of: LUDWIG, L. et al.
Serial No: 08/131,523
Filed: October 1, 1993
For: Multimedia Collaboration System

Docket No: VCOR-001/00US

Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Application Processing Division
Washington, D.C. 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENT

Please amend the above application as follows:

In the claims:

55. A teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of said participants, said workstations being interconnected by a first network, said network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among said workstations, the teleconferencing system comprising:

(a) an AV path₁ for carrying AV signals [among said workstations, said AV signals] representing video images and[/or] spoken audio of said participants, [said AV path] connecting the workstation of a first [of said] participant[s] at a first location to the workstation of a second [of said] participant[s] at a second location via a third location; [and]

(b) first, second and third codecs respectively, at said first, second and third locations, for compressing said AV signals and decompressing said compressed AV signals, each of said codecs in communication with said AV path; and

(c) an AV signal switcher at said third location, [coupled to] in communication with said third codec and said AV path, for receiving and routing said AV signals to a location other than said third location if said AV signals are intended to be processed at said other location, [whereby the video image and spoken audio of said first participant can be routed to said second location, via said third location, and reproduced at the workstation of said second participant.]

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and arranged to communicate with said third codec, such that images of said first participant, compressed by said first codec and routed to said second location via said third location, are not decompressed by said third codec.

62. The teleconferencing system of claim 55, further comprising a video mosaic generator, [coupled to] in communication with said AV path, for combining the captured images of [a plurality of said] a first and second participant[s] into a mosaic image [of said captured images] for reproduction at least one workstation.

64. The teleconferencing system of claim 55, further comprising an audio summer[, coupled to] in communication with said AV path, for combining the captured audio of [at least] a first, [and a] second [of said] and third participant[s] into an audio sum [including the captured audio of each of said participants except for the first of said participants, whereby said audio sum can be reproduced] for reproduction at the workstation of said first participant.

72. A teleconferencing system for conducting a teleconference among a plurality of participants having workstations with associated monitors for displaying visual images, and with associated AV capture and reproduction capabilities for capturing and reproducing video images and spoken audio of said participants, said workstations being interconnected by a first network, said network providing a data path for carrying digital data signals among said workstations, the teleconferencing system comprising:

(a) a data conference manager for managing a data conference during which data can be shared among a plurality of said participants and displayed on the monitors of their respective workstations and for managing said videoconference by utilizing a data network operating system and data network protocol of said first network;

(b) a second network interconnecting said workstations and providing an AV path, logically separate from said data path, for carrying AV signals among said workstations, said AV signals representing video images and/or spoken audio of said participants; and

(c) an AV conference manager in communication with said data conference manager and said second network, for managing a videoconference during which the video image and spoken

audio of one of said participants can be reproduced at the workstation of another of said participants[, whereby the data path, data network operating system and data network protocol suite of said first network can be utilized by said data conference manager for managing said data conference and by said AV conference manager for managing said videoconference.] by utilizing said data network operating system and data network protocol of said first network.

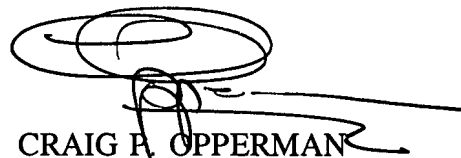
77. The teleconferencing system of claim 76 wherein said AV path is implemented with the remaining two pairs of an existing four-pair unshielded twisted pair wiring installation [two] one pair[s] of which implements said data path.

REMARKS

Please make these amendments before this application is examined. The claim numbers indicated are those assigned and as communicated by the Examiner in Paper 12, mailed on August 7, 1995.

These amendments are made to bring these claims into closer conformance with corresponding claims in PCT/US94/02961.

Respectfully submitted,



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